Abstract of the Disclosure

The invention is an arc tube for a discharge bulb in which both ends of a light emitting tube inserting electrode bars respectively are sealed and a closed space having the electrodes opposed to each other and filled with a light emitting substance together with a rare gas for starting is provided in the light emitting tube, the light emitting tube is constituted by translucent ceramics having an excellent heat resistance and durability which is formed almost cylindrically and a ratio d/L of an outside diameter d to a whole length L is set to range from 0.2 to 0.5, thereby reducing a size. Moreover, the parallel ray transmittance of the light emitting tube is set to be 20% or less and the whole ray transmittance of the light emitting tube 12 is set to be 85% or more. Consequently, the whole light emitting tube uniformly emits a light so that a bar-shaped light emitting section having neither a luminance unevenness nor a color unevenness is obtained. In use for a discharge bulb to be a light source for a reflection type lighting unit, light distribution control can easily be carried out depending on the shape of the reflecting surface of a reflector and a bright and white proper distributed light can be formed.